

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 14-15, 18 and 20 are amended and claims 2 and 19 are canceled through this Amendment and Response. Claims 21-38 are withdrawn. Thus, claims 1, 3-18 and 20-38 are pending in the present application. The Applicant has carefully and thoughtfully considered the Office Action and the comments therein. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited references. Based on the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is earnestly requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 18, as amended, recites “loading said product into a third register” and “loading said third operand into a fourth register.” It is well known that loading data into a register causes a physical transformation in internal components (e.g. latches) of the register. Thus, these features establish a physical transformation within the third and fourth registers. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 provides “a transformation or reduction of an article to a different state or thing” and meets the statutory requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 101. *See M.P.E.P. § 1206.IV.C.2(1).*

Further, loading the product and the third operand into the third and fourth registers, respectively, constitutes a useful, concrete and tangible result. When data resulting from a functional process is stored in a computer-readable medium such as a register, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory. *See M.P.E.P. § 2106.01.* Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6-8, 10-12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,698 to Hong. The same claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,732,132 to Sogo.

Claim 1 is herein amended to include the features previously recited in claim 2. Similarly, claim 10 is amended to include the features previously recited in claim 13. On pages 5-6 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 13 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are stated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Specifically, the Office Action states that the recorded references do NOT teach or suggest a “a fourth register with its least significant bit position coupled to at least one of said third register and said selection logic,” as previously recited in claims 2 and 13. These feature are now included in the amended claims 1 and 13. For at least this reason, claims 1 and 13 are submitted as being allowable.

Claims 3-9 depend on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 11-12 and 14-17 depend on claim 13 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

The rejection of claims 18-20 is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the amended claim 18 recites “loading said third operand into a fourth register with its least significant bit position coupled to at least one of said third register and said function selection signal.” As admitted by the Office Action, a fourth register coupled to third register and a selection logic is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Thus, claim 18 is submitted as being allowable. Claim 20 is dependent on claim 18 and is also allowable for at least the same reason as claim 18.

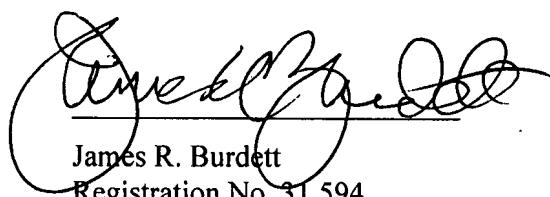
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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